(d) The steps taken by the concerned States to protect the sandalwood forests are as under:

1. Kerala:

   (i) Creation of Special Task Force and deployment of Rapid Action Force

   (ii) Supply of arms and ammunitions to the staff

   (iii) Involvement of local people in sandal protection through Vanasanrakshana Samithies'

   (iv) Intensive patrolling of forest areas.

2. Tamil Nadu:

   (i) Creation of Striking force

   (ii) Creation of smaller beats for intensive protection

   (iii) Provision of vehicles, wireless, arms etc. to the staff

   (iv) Appointment of Tribals as sandalwood protection watchers

3. Karnataka:

   (i) Establishment of a separate vigilance wing for the purpose

   (ii) Fully equipped forest Mobile squads and staff at all levels

   (iii) Establishment of a network of forest check posts and Forest Protection Camps in sensitive areas

4. Andhra Pradesh:

   Regular patrolling by protection staff, flying squads and the special mobile parties in the vulnerable areas of Andhra Pradesh.

HIV infection during blood transfusion

*75. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in certain cases the ignorance of the doctors results in getting infection with HIV virus during blood transfusion;

(b) the measures adopted by the medical authorities to control spread of HIV virus and issue directions to the concerned Departments; and

(c) if so, the action taken, so far?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (c) As per Drugs and Cosmetic Rules, it is mandatory for all licensed blood banks to screen every unit of donated blood for HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, Syphilis and Malaria before the same is issued for transfusion to the patients. Also it is mandatory for all blood banks to obtain a license from the Drug Control Authorities, who, before issue of the license, ensures that the blood banks have the requisite infrastructure to carry out all the mandatory tests for safe blood. Periodic checks are carried out by the Drug Controller during the validity of license and before renewal.

2. Further, in order to control the spread of HIV/AIDS, the Government is implementing a National AIDS Control Programme as a Centrally sponsored scheme in all the States and Union Territories through 38 State AIDS Control societies which also include 3 Municipal AIDS Control Societies in Ahmedabad, Chennai and Mumbai. Various steps in the Medical domain taken by Government under this programme to control the spread of HIV/AIDS are given hereunder:-

(i) About 5 lakhs health care providers have been trained on HIV/AIDS.

(ii) Services are being provided for Voluntary Counselling and Testing, treatment of Sexually Transmitted Disease (STDs) and Opportunistic infections through most of the district hospitals and States have been aksed to extend these services in every district. NACO is also committed to support at least one Government blood bank in every district of the country.

(iii) To ensure that safe blood is provided to patients, voluntary blood donation is being promoted across the country. Rational use of blood is also being promoted by training clincians on proper indications for blood transfusion and also by setting up Blood Component Separation Units for providing blood components.

(iv) Facilities for prevention of parent to child transmission have been

created in 288 antenatal clinics at medical colleges and district hospitals, most of which are located in high prevalence States.

(v) Free anti retroviral treatment is also being provided to AIDS patients who report to Government hospitals through ART centres in these hospitals in a phased manner.

All these activities are carried out in collaboration with State Governments, Inter-sectoral partners and the Private Sector.

Electrification of Railway Tracks

*76. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have identified tracks for electrification during the next ten years;

(b) if so, the details of the routes identified for electrification;

(c) the annual saving likely to be made by Railways after such electrification; and

(d) the expenditure to be incurred by the Railways on such electrification plan?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Railways have drawn up a blueprint for electrification of 2652 route kilometres for the next 10 years, which includes the following railway routes:

Sl. No.	Name of route	Railway	Route kilometres
1.	Nandalur-Guntakal	South Central	222
2.	Purie-Wadi-Guntakal	South Central & Central	641
3.	Mughalsarai-Utraitia-Moradabad	Northern	896
4.	*via* Sultanpur & Unchahar	West Central	303
5.	Bina-Kota	Northern & North Western	429
6.	Shakurbasti-Bhatinda-Suratgarh	Western	161
	Lingampalli-Wadi	South Central	
	TOTAL:		2652

(c) The savings will become known only when the projects are finally appraised at the time of sanction.